

Condoms and Nonoxynol-9

? "Simply put, condoms fail. And condoms fail at a rate unacceptable for me as a physician to endorse them as a strategy to be promoted as meaningful AIDS protection."

Quote from: ¾ Dr. Robert Renfield, chief of retro-viral research, Walter Reed Army Institute

? "Saying that the use of condoms is 'safe sex' is in fact playing Russian roulette. A lot of people will die in this dangerous game."

Quote from: ¾ Dr. Teresa Crenshaw, member of the U.S. Presidential AIDS Commission and past president of the American Association of Sex Educators

In 1993 the University of Texas analyzed the results of 11 different studies that had tracked the effectiveness of condoms to prevent transmission of the AIDS virus. The average condom failure rate in the 11 studies for preventing transmission of the AIDS virus was 31%.

- ❑ One reason condoms fail in preventing the transfer of AIDS is that latex condoms have tiny intrinsic holes called "voids." Sperm is larger than the holes, but the AIDS virus is 50 times smaller than these tiny holes which makes it easy for the virus to pass through [Source: Dr. C. M. Roland, editor of Rubber Chemistry and Technology]. To give you an idea of how easy it would be for the virus to pass through these holes, just imagine a ping pong ball going through a basketball hoop. <http://www.prolife.com/CONDOMS.html>
- ❑ One of the studies found that among teenagers, the condom failure rate regarding pregnancy was 36%! On average, that means that **one out of every three teenage couples using condoms will become pregnant each year.**
- ❑ Consider this:
 - Although Nonoxynol-9 has been shown to increase the risk of HIV infection when used frequently by women at high risk of infection, it remains a contraceptive option for women at low risk.
 - Nonoxynol-9 offers no protection against sexually transmitted infections such as gonorrhoea or chlamydia.
 - There is no evidence that condoms lubricated with Nonoxynol-9 are any more effective in preventing pregnancy or infection than condoms lubricated with silicone, and such condoms should no longer be promoted. However, it is better to use an Nonoxynol-9 lubricated condom than no condom at all.

Source: Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR), World Health Organization:
<http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/rtis/nonoxynol9.html>

- **"N-9 should not be recommended as an effective means of HIV prevention."**
<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/mmwr/mmwr11aug00.htm>